

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A tray for sample vessels, comprising:  
an upper surface [(4)] with a plurality of orifices [(2; 2.1)] arranged in matrix configuration, wherein  
each of the orifices [[which]] accommodates one sample vessel and ~~wherein~~  
~~each orifice (2; 2.1) comprises two straight planar positioning walls [(10),]~~  
which define a positioning corner [(11)] forming a right angle, and  
wherein  
the orifices include ~~orifice is provided with a planar~~ flexible support wall [(13; 31.1)] positioned opposite the positioning corner, the flexible support wall  
having an upper edge, two lateral edges and a lower edge [(13; 13.1)],  
the upper surface of the tray joining the upper edge of the support wall,  
wherein the flexible [[which]] support wall of the orifices elastically presses  
a sample vessel [, which is]] inserted into the orifice [, ] towards the  
positioning corner, and wherein  
the orifices have ~~each orifice has~~ at least one planar side wall [(12)] joining  
[[the]] a lateral edge of a respective flexible [[the]] support wall to a lateral  
edge of a respective one of the positioning walls.
12. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which each orifice is  
provided with a separate support wall [(13; 13.1)].
13. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the positioning walls,  
the at least one side wall and the flexible support wall of each ~~(10, 12, 13)~~ of the  
orifice encircle the orifice peripherally.

14. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the flexible support wall ~~[[ (13) ]]~~ is inclined towards the centre of the orifice.
15. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, ~~wherein orifices in which an outwardly directed positioning wall ~~[[ (10) ]]~~ is provided in the orifice at an outer~~ [[the]] edge of the matrix include outwardly directed positioning walls.
16. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 15, in which the outwardly directed positioning walls (10) of the orifices located at the edge join each other, forming a continuous periphery (14) around the matrix.
17. (currently amended) A tray as defined in claim 11, in which the orifices ~~[[ (2; 2.1) ]]~~ are disposed in arrays of four orifices [each,] starting from the corner of the matrix, wherein ~~[[with]]~~ the flexible support walls of the orifices are located at a means (13; 31.1) oriented towards the centre of the array.
18. (new) A tray for sample vessels comprising:  
multiple square orifice arrays comprised of four orifices, wherein  
each of the orifices in the orifice arrays is defined by a pair of planar positioning walls joined to one another along an edge thereof to define a positioning corner, and wherein  
the orifice arrays include a pushing means positioned centrally in the orifice array for elastically pushing a sample vessel inserted into an orifice in a direction toward a respective one of the positioning corners, wherein the pushing means includes planar elastic support walls each positioned in opposition to a positioning corner of a respective orifice.
19. (new) A tray as in claim 18, wherein each of the orifices includes at least one planar side wall having lateral edges which join a respective one of the positioning walls to the support wall thereof.

20. (new) A tray as in claim 18, wherein each of the orifices includes a pair of side walls, each of the side walls having lateral edges joining respective ones of the positioning walls to the support wall thereof.
21. (new) A tray as in claim 20, wherein respective positioning walls, side walls and a supporting wall are joined to one another so as to define a periphery of each orifice in the orifice array.
22. (new) A tray as in claim 19, wherein the at least one side wall has an inwardly bent free edge which defines the support wall.